



Substance Abuse Advisory Council of Montcalm County

PO Box 836, Stanton MI 48888 ~ 989.831.4591
montcalmwp@cmsinter.net

July 13, 2007

House Commerce Committee
c/o Committee Clerk's Office
Anderson House Office Building 124 North Capitol, 3-South
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Re: House Bill 4163 – Smokefree Worksites

Dear Members of the House Commerce Committee:

The Montcalm Substance Abuse Advisory Council (SAAC) is submitting this letter of **support for HB 4163**, smokefree worksites in Michigan. The Montcalm Substance Abuse Advisory Council sets goals and promotes programs that are comprehensive, research-based approaches to address the substance abuse issues in Montcalm County. It is the goal of the SAAC, to make Montcalm County a healthier community to work and live.

The SAAC, recognizes tobacco as the leading preventable cause of death in Michigan. According to Michigan Department of Community Health, smoking-attributable morbidity, mortality and economic costs:

Every year in Michigan over 2,490 non-smokers die as a result of exposure to secondhand smoke. Research shows that even 30 minutes of exposure to secondhand smoke can cause heart damage similar to that of a habitual smoker, the kind of damage that can lead to a heart attack. The smoking related direct health care costs are \$20,383,963.00 and the Medicaid smoking related health care costs include \$6,767,475.00 , (SAMMEC)2003.

In the United States Surgeon General's 2006 report, The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke, Executive Summary, it states, "The scientific evidence indicates that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke." The implementation of smokefree worksites and public places legislation is critical to the health of the public in Michigan.

Studies in New York, Massachusetts, California, Florida and the other smokefree states indicate revenue and jobs are created after smokefree laws are adopted. In the first year after New York City's smokefree law, 10,600 hospitality jobs were created and business tax receipts from bars and restaurants increased by 8.7 percent.

Representative Andy Meisner House Commerce Committee Chair

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The SAAC strongly supports the passage of HB 4163. Smokefree Michigan is good for people, good for business, and good for Michigan!

Thank you for your service in representing the citizens of Michigan. The Montcalm SAAC would be pleased to provide you with additional information to support a smokefree Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly Singh', written in a cursive style.

Kimberly Singh, M.A.
Chairperson

CC: Senator Alan Cropsey, 33rd District
Representative Judy Emmons, 70th District